

**CLAIMS**

1. A medical device including a latent marking which becomes visible following exposure of the device to ambient conditions.  
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2. A medical device including a latent marking which becomes visible during or following first usage of the device upon removal of sealed packaging materials.
- 10 3. A medical device according to Claim 2 wherein the marking is adapted to become visible upon exposure to ambient conditions.
4. A medical device according to any preceding claim in which the latent marking is adapted to become visible upon exposure to air.  
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5. A medical device according to any preceding claim in which the latent marking is adapted to become visible upon exposure to light.
- 20 6. A medical device according to any one of the preceding claims in which the device is packaged prior to use.
7. A medical device according to Claim 6 in which the removal from the packaging occasions exposure to ambient conditions.
- 25 8. A medical device according to any one of the preceding claims in which the latent marking is etched into the surface of the device

9. A medical device according to claim 8, wherein the latent marking is obscured by a layer which reveals the latent marking following exposure to ambient conditions.
- 5 10. A medical device according to any one of the Claims 1 to 8 in which the latent marking is carried on a label irremovably adhered to the surface of the device.
- 10 11. A medical device according to Claims 10 in which the latent marking comprises dyes or chemicals applied in such manner to yield a warning message in the visible spectrum following exposure.
12. A medical device substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.